

From: Barry A. Warsaw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 8:54am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The proposed Microsoft settlement with the US Department of Justice is a bad settlement, and would hurt consumers and the software industry. It would reduce the amount of choice that consumers have and actually increase and extend the monopoly held by Microsoft.

As one example of the problems, the Proposed Final Judgement (PFJ) does not prohibit discriminatory practices in Microsoft licenses. Microsoft's End User License Agreement (EULA) prohibits uses of add-on software and services on competing, Microsoft-compatible operating systems. Such systems (e.g. Macintosh and Linux) are technically able to operate in a compatibility mode that allows software such as Microsoft Office, to run on non-Microsoft operating systems, however the standard license agreements on Office prohibit this.

This is only one of the scores of problems with the PFJ. I urge you to reject the PFJ and to re-negotiate settlement terms that actually address the known monopolistic practices of Microsoft.

Sincerely,

Barry A. Warsaw
Software Developer
403 Belton Road
Silver Spring, MD 20901
301.681.0289
barry@wooz.org